

EX

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/742,485

Examiner

Davienne Monbleau

Applicant(s)

MORTON, RICHARD G.

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Examiner's Amendment incorporated herein.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 19 and 22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S COMMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/9/04 have been fully considered and found persuasive. In particular, the Examiner agrees that there is no motivation to combine the annealed electrode of an ion gas laser (*Wiedemann*) with an excimer gas discharge laser because of the different types of environments (See Appeal Brief, page 13). Additionally, with regards to the electrodes, the cited prior art of record (*Wiedemann*) is silent as to whether the annealing step is before or after the machining step (See Appeal Brief, pages 14 and 17).

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Cray on 11/20/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

REPLACE claim 1 with:

An excimer laser with long life electrodes, said laser comprising:

A) a laser chamber containing a laser gas comprising fluorine;

B) an electrode set comprising an elongated machined and annealed copper alloy cathode and an elongated machined and annealed copper alloy anode, wherein said cathode and anode

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are annealed after they are machined to reduce surface stress and to reduce exposed metallic grain boundary length on surfaces of said cathode and anode;

C) a circulating means for circulating said laser gas between said elongated electrodes;
and

D) a pulse power electrical system for generating electrical pulses between said electrodes to produce a laser gain medium.

CANCEL claims 18, 20, and 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11, 19, and 22 are allowed in view of the Examiner's Amendment incorporated herein.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-11, 19, and 22, the cited prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest an excimer laser with long life electrodes comprising, along with the other claimed features, an electrode set comprising an elongated machined and annealed copper alloy cathode and an elongated machined and annealed copper alloy anode, wherein said cathode and anode are annealed after they are machined to reduce surface stress and to reduce exposed metallic grain boundary length on surfaces of said cathode and anode.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davienne Monbleau whose telephone number is 571-272-1945. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on 571-272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Davienne Monbleau

DNM

Stephane B. Allen
Stephane B. Allen
Primary Examiner